

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 and 32-38 are pending in the application. Claims 17, 23, 25 and 26 have been withdrawn from consideration.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4 and 24 are amended, and claims 30 and 31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter set forth therein. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

II. THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action indicates that claim 38 is allowed. Further, the Office Action indicates that claims 4-16, 18-22, 24, 27, 28 and 31 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates such indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended the application based on the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Specifically, the application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claims 30 and 31.

Claim 4 is amended to include the features of claim 1.

Claim 24 is amended to include the features of claim 1.

II. THE ELECTION OF SPECIES

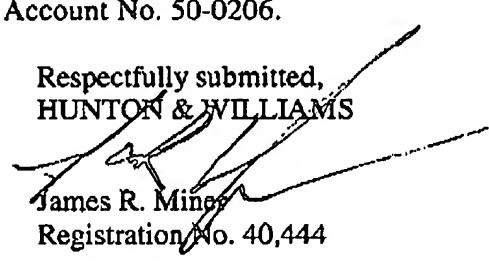
Claims 17, 23, 25 and 26 were withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species. However, each of such claims now depend on an allowable claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that such claims 17, 23, 25 and 26 should now be allowed along with the other allowed claims.

III. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicant respectfully asserts that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

For any fees due in connection with filing this Response the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,
HUNTON & WILLIAMS

James R. Miner
Registration No. 40,444

Hunton & Williams LLP
1900 K Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
(202) 955-1500

Dated: June 14, 2004